

**FINAL  
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE  
TRENCHES NEAR RANGE 20 FIRING LINE, PARCELS 239(7) AND 240(7)  
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY**

**NOVEMBER 2000**

**U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES  
DECISION DOCUMENT**

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Trenches Near Range 20 Firing Line, Parcels 239(7) and 240(7) at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of the parcels at FTMC is shown on Figure 1. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision with regard to hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste (HTRW). Unexploded ordnance (UXO)-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IV, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning

and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) completed at the Trenches Near Range 20 Firing Line, Parcels 239(7) and 240(7), the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to HTRW. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Trenches Near Range 20 Firing Line, Parcels 239(7) and 240(7). A list of background documents for Parcels 239(7) and 240(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcels 239(7) and 240(7) is available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING  
SITE**

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public

Law 101-510 established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA) (Public Law 102-426) requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act process.

**SITE BACKGROUND**

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC is comprised of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC

## PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCELS 239(7) AND 240(7)

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, prepared for U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, January.

IT Corporation (IT), 2000a, *Final Site Investigation Report, Trenches Near Range 20 Firing Line, Parcels 239(7) and 240(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, November.

IT Corporation (IT), 2000b, *Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, July.

IT Corporation (IT), 1998, *Final Site-Specific Field Sampling Plan for the Trenches Near Range 20 Firing Line, Parcel 239(7) and Parcel 240(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, December.

Science Applications International Corporation, 1998, *Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, July.

installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which comprises 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which comprises 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Trenches Near Range 20 Firing Line (Parcels 239[7] and 240[7]) are located near Bains Gap Road in the central part of the Main Post of FTMC (Figure 1). Aerial photographs were reviewed to locate the approximate site boundary of each parcel; however, the original shape and orientation of each parcel are slightly different from those identified in the environmental baseline survey

(Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998). The actual shape and orientation of both parcels were identified during a site visit conducted by IT Corporation (IT) personnel in July 1998. Each parcel covers approximately 1 acre.

Parcel 239(7) is located south of Bains Gap Road, approximately 80 feet west of the Range 20 firing line. Parcel 239(7) is approximately 200 feet in length by 100 feet wide. The site slopes from the northeast to the southwest and lies at an elevation of approximately 950 feet above mean sea level (Figure 1). A small tributary is located approximately 1,400 feet south of Parcel 239(7) and flows westward into Ingram Creek to the northwest.

Parcel 240(7) is located approximately 200 feet northeast of the Range 20 firing line, adjacent to a dirt access road. Parcel 240(7)

is approximately 300 feet in length by 200 feet wide. The site slopes from the northeast to the southwest and lies at an elevation of approximately 1,000 feet above mean sea level (Figure 1). A large drainage ditch runs southwest through the parcel. The ditch measures up to 15 feet wide and 10 feet deep.

### SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the environmental baseline survey (ESE, 1998) was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using U.S. Department of Defense guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories, or a non-Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act qualifier designation, as appropriate. The seven CERFA categories include CERFA

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES  
FOR FORT McCLELLAN**

**Anniston Calhoun County Public Library**

Reference Section

Anniston, Alabama 36201

Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison

Tele: (256) 237-8501

Fax: (256) 238-0474

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Houston Cole Library**

9<sup>th</sup> Floor

Jacksonville State University

700 Pelham Road

Jacksonville, Alabama 36265

Point of Contact: Ms. Rita Smith (256) 782-5249

Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Uncontaminated Parcels (Categories 1 and 2), CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. The Trenches Near Range 20 Firing Line, Parcels 239(7) and 240(7) were categorized as CERFA Category 7 parcels in the environmental baseline survey. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or require further evaluation (ESE, 1998). With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcels 239(7) and 240(7) are recategorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has

occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response.

**SITE INVESTIGATION**

An SI was conducted at the Trenches Near Range 20 Firing Line, Parcels 239(7) and 240(7) to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that would present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT, 2000a). As part of the SI, geophysical surveys were conducted at the parcels to identify anomalies representing suspected trenches. The geophysical data did not indicate the presence of

trenches; however, one geophysical anomaly identified in the Parcel 239(7) data was interpreted to be a pit containing a low concentration of buried metal.

Six surface soil samples, two depositional soil samples, six subsurface soil samples, and two groundwater samples were collected at the site. Surface and depositional soil samples were collected from the upper 1 foot of soil; subsurface soil samples were collected at depths greater than 1 foot below ground surface. Groundwater samples were collected from two temporary groundwater monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI.

Samples were analyzed for target analyte list metals, target compound list volatile organic compounds, target compound list semivolatile organic compounds, pesticides/herbicides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and nitroaromatic explosives.

To evaluate whether detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC (IT, 2000b). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with SIs being performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metal concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to media-specific background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998).

The potential threat to human receptors is expected to be low. Although the site is projected for passive recreational use, the analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted future land use. In soils, the concentrations of manganese (two surface soil samples) and iron (one surface soil sample) exceeded SSSLs and the respective background concentration. However, the concentrations of these metals were within the range of background values determined by Science Applications International Corporation (1998). The pesticide

4,4'-dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) was detected in one surface soil sample at a concentration (3.6 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg]) exceeding the SSSL (1.79 mg/kg). Given the low concentration and limited distribution, the 4,4'-DDT is not expected to pose a significant threat to human health.

In groundwater, several metals were detected at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and background concentrations. However, the elevated metals results are likely the result of high turbidity at the time of sample collection and are not believed to be related to site activities. The concentration of the semivolatile organic compound bis(2-ethylhexyl)-phthalate exceeded the SSSL in one groundwater sample. Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate is a common contaminant in water samples and is probably not related to site activities.

The concentrations of three metals (barium, beryllium, and selenium) exceeded ESVs and the range of background values in two surface/depositional soil samples each. Additionally, the concentrations of three pesticides (4,4'-dichlorodiphenyl-dichloroethane, 4,4'-dichlorodiphenyldichloroethene, and/or 4,4'-DDT) exceeded ESVs at four surface/depositional soil sample locations. The cumulative concentration of these pesticides in the eight surface and depositional soil samples collected was 5.33 mg/kg. The parcels are located within a heavily wooded area, away from the developed portion of the Main Post and are expected to support viable ecological habitat.

However, the low levels of metals and pesticides detected are not expected to pose a substantial threat to ecological receptors.

## **SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Trenches Near Range 20 Firing Line, Parcels 239(7) and 240(7).

## **DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION**

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcels 239(7) and 240(7). No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health or the environment at this site. The metals and organic compounds detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted future land use with regard to HTRW. Furthermore, Parcels 239(7) and 240(7) are recategorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Trenches Near Range 20 Firing Line, Parcels 239(3) and 240(3) (formerly Parcels 239[7] and 240[7]) with regard to HTRW.

The following costs are associated with implementing the no-action alternative:

Capital Cost: \$0  
Annual Operation &  
Maintenance Costs: \$0  
Present Worth Cost: \$0  
Months to Implement: None  
Remedial Duration: None.

## DECLARATION

Further remedial action is unnecessary at the Trenches Near Range 20 Firing Line, Parcels 239(3) and 240(3) (formerly Parcels 239[7] and 240[7]). The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with federal and state regulations that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the parcel, or that require land-use control restrictions to exposure. The site is released for unrestricted future land use with regard to HTRW. Parcels 239(7) and 240(7) are recategorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action at the Trenches Near Range 20 Firing Line, Parcels 239(3) and 240(3) (formerly Parcels 239[7] and 240[7]).

## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

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## ACRONYMS

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
DDT	dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
HTRW	hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste
IT	IT Corporation
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
UXO	unexploded ordnance

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